

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 OMB-01 /068 W

----- 107422

R 090823Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5266

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PING, RP, CH,TS

SUBJECT: NATURALIZATION OF PHILIPPINE CHINESE ALIENS

REF: MANILA 8505 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: PERIOD FOR ALIENS TO APPLY FOR PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP UNDER LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES EXPIRED ON JUNE 30. GOP IS NOW PROCESSING BACKLOG OF APPLICATIONS AND WILL PROBABLY EXTEND DEADLINE AGAIN AT SOME LATER DATE. ALTHOUGH 32,500 APPLICATION FORMS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO DATE, ONLY 19,600 WERE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION BEFORE DEADLINE. RETURNED APPLICATIONS COVER ONLY A PORTION (PERHAPS LESS THAN HALF) OF TOTAL ALIEN CHINESE COMMUNITY. ETHNIC CHINESE LEADERS ARE URGING GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER RELAX REQUIREMENTS (ESPECIALLY LINGUISTIC) WHICH HAVE

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PERSUADED MANY ELDERLY CHINESE NOT TO APPLY FOR FEAR

OF FAILURE. END SUMMARY.

1. APPLICATION PERIOD FOR ALIENS (MAINLY CHINESE) TO APPLY FOR PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP UNDER LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES ENDED ON JUNE 30. ACCORDING TO GOP, 32,500 APPLICATIONS FORMS WERE DISTRIBUTED AND 19,600 RETURNED AND ARE NOW BEING PROCESSED. ASSUMING LATTER ALL APPROVED, GUESTIMATES ARE THAT ONLY ONE-THIRD TO TWO-THIRDS OF TOTAL CHINESE ALIEN COMMUNITY (WHICH NUMBERS 150 200,000) WILL HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED BY NATURALIZATION. (MANY APPLICATIONS COVER ENTIRE FAMILIES.)

2. SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA TOLD POL CONS JULY 8 THAT HIS OFFICE SWAMPED PROCESSING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND THAT DEADLINE WOULD PROBABLY BE EXTENDED AGAIN WHEN BACKLOG REDUCED (AFTER 2-3 MONTHS). PRESS OF JULY 8 CARRIED SIMILAR VERSION WITH MENDOZA ASIDE THAT DECISION TO EXTEND OR NOT WOULD BE UP TO PRESIDENT MARCOS. PRESS ALSO REPORTED RECOMMENDATION FROM HEAD OF PHILIPPINE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT IN FUTURE VIRTUALLY ALL CONDITIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP, ESPECIALLY LINGUISTIC/LITERACY REQUIREMENT, SHOULD BE ELIMINATED. MENDOZA, HOWEVER, SAID PRIVATELY THAT NO MODIFICATIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED OR MADE UNTIL AFTER ALL APPLICATIONS ON HAND HAD BEEN PROCESSED, AND NEEDS EVALUATED, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT LITERACY SEEMED TO BE PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: NATURALIZATION DRIVE HAS BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL THUS FAR. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MANY MORE CHINESE WILL BE PERSUADED TO APPLY WHEN DEADLINE IS EXTENDED UNLESS (AS URGED BY VIRTUALLY ALL ADVOCATES OF ASSIMILATION) OFF-PUTTING REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS ARE FURTHER REDUCED. AS STRESSED BY HEAD OF CHINESE CHAMBER, MANY ELDERLY ALIENS IN PROVINCES SPEAK ONLY CHINESE PLUS REGIONAL LANGUAGE, WHEREAS PRESENT RULES REQUIRE KNOWLEDGE EITHER OF TAGALOG OR (IF NOT TAGALOG), REGIONAL LANGUAGE PLUS ENGLISH. FURTHER, MANY YOUNGER CHINESE HAVE BEEN HELD BACK BY GENERAL FEAR OF INCREASED GOP CONTROL, INCLUDING DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING PASSPORTS, AND VAGUE APPREHENSION THAT THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE (WHICH AS YET DOES NOT EXIST IN PHILIPPINES). PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS COMPOUNDED PROBLEM BY TELLING COMMUNITY LEADERS THAT ALIENS WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE AND TRAVEL AS BEFORE ON GROC PASSPORTS (REF). IN SHORT, GOP WILL NEED TO REINVIGORATE NATURALIZATION DRIVE IF IT WISHES TO AVOID A CONSIDERABLE PROBLEM OF RESIDUAL ALIEN CHINESE SUBJECT TO LEGALLY UNDEFINED "PROTECTION" FROM NEW PRC EMBASSY. PURNELL

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